



Competitive Grant

A n n o u n c e m e n t

Tribal Technology and Information Sharing Outreach Program

Fiscal Year
2002

Submission Deadline
September 13, 2002

BJA



About OJP

The Office of Justice Programs (OJP), U.S. Department of Justice, administers more than \$100 million in programs for Indian tribes. These programs help tribal governments address crime issues in their communities. OJP's American Indian and Alaska Native Affairs Desk and the Justice Department's Office of Tribal Justice (OTJ) and Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) work to secure resources to improve law enforcement and justice systems on tribal lands.

About BJA

The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), a component of OJP, developed and will administer the Tribal Technology and Information Sharing Outreach Program. BJA's mission is to provide leadership and a wide range of assistance to local criminal justice strategies to make America's communities safer. BJA will work with OJP's American Indian and Alaska Native Affairs Desk, OTJ, COPS, and other agencies and organizations to ensure that program resources are used appropriately.

Tribal Technology and Information Sharing

Urban and rural jurisdictions across the country have taken advantage of new technological innovations by acquiring products that enhance their ability to improve information management and sharing among justice system agencies. In Indian Country, where unemployment is high and economies have been hard pressed, the remoteness of many tribal communities has restricted their opportunity to learn about and obtain new technology.

This problem was noted in testimony before the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs and the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation on May 14, 2002, by the Federal Communications Commission's Consumer and Governmental Affairs bureau chief, who stated that "the telephone penetration rate for tribal lands remains well below the nationwide rate of 95 percent." A 1999 report from the Benton Foundation, *Native Networking:*

Telecommunications and Information Technology in Indian Country, reported that 53 percent of Indian homes on reservations do not have telephones, that only 76 of 185 Bureau of Indian Affairs schools are connected to the U.S. Department of the Interior's Internet service, and that only 100 of 550 federally recognized tribes have web sites accessible to the public.

OJP has worked to reverse this trend by introducing new technology through a wide range of initiatives that include the CIRCLE Project and BJA's Tribal Courts Assistance Program. In November 1999, OJP facilitated a meeting of more than 40 persons

representing tribal justice systems, tribal leadership, and federal agencies to discuss how information sharing in Indian Country could be improved. These discussions resulted in the creation of OJP's Information Technology (IT) initiative, which was kicked off in fiscal year 2001 with the Inter-tribal Integrated Justice Pilot Project. This initiative, a joint effort of the Navajo Nation, the Hopi Tribe, and the Pueblo of Zuni, is building an infrastructure to support information sharing and integration within the tribes. The initiative also supports training that will help the tribes achieve self-sufficiency in information technology.

About the Tribal Technology and Information Sharing Outreach Program

The Tribal Technology and Information Sharing Outreach Program is designed to (1) enhance communication with tribal governments about technological advancements in tribal jurisdictions, and (2) provide tools to tribal governments that will help them either establish an integrated information management system or enhance the system in place.

The program will reach a wide audience across Indian Country, providing up-to-date information on assessment protocols, products, and systems that are having a positive impact. Elements of the program are (1) gathering information and lessons learned from OJP offices and bureaus, other federal agencies, and organizations such as the Tribal Justice Statistics Assistance Center and the National

Tribal Justice Resource Center; (2) establishing culturally appropriate and user-friendly protocols for conducting information technology assessments; (3) collecting information from tribal and nontribal jurisdictions that have benefited from establishing integrated justice systems; and (4) maximizing outreach to tribal communities using a variety of communication tools.

What This Solicitation Seeks

Applications are solicited by the Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice Programs, for one award to deliver training and technical assistance under the Tribal Technology and Information Sharing Outreach Program. Work elements must be culturally relevant. Priorities for this technical assistance award include the following activities:

- ◆ Establishing a culturally appropriate advisory committee that will be involved throughout the administration of this project.
- ◆ Documenting tribal integrated justice partnerships and their roles and responsibilities.
- ◆ Identifying best practices and developing information technology assessment protocols and training that will be made available to tribal communities through a variety of venues.
- ◆ Providing innovative communication strategies such as web-based productions, video and CD-ROM products, direct mail, and workshops, seminars, and conferences.
- ◆ Establishing a technical assistance capacity to answer inquiries from tribal governments, communities, and organizations.

- ◆ Submitting a substantial interim report describing information and insight gathered through the project and a comprehensive final report at the conclusion of the grant period.
- ◆ Establishing a close working relationship with the BJA program staff administering the program.

Coordination With Other Organizations

In addition to working with BJA, the award recipient will work with other OJP bureaus and offices that support information management and sharing systems in tribal settings. The recipient will reach out to other agencies and organizations such as the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services and the Executive Office of U.S. Attorneys, U.S. Department of Justice; the Bureau of Indian Affairs, U.S. Department of the Interior; the Indian Health Service and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; the Tribal Justice Statistics Assistance Center and the National Tribal Justice Resource Center; and tribal constituency organizations.

Who Is Eligible

Applicants must have demonstrated experience working with Indian tribes and tribal justice information management systems. Applicants are encouraged to form partnerships and collaborate with other organizations in the submission of their application. Documentation highlighting organizational capabilities must be included in the application's appendix.

Amount and Length of Award

One award, not to exceed \$500,000, will be made through this competitive solicitation process. The grant period will be for a period of not less than 18 months.

Administrative Requirements

The application kit and instructions for this solicitation are available from BJA's web site at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/html/apply1.htm.

To be considered for funding, applicants must:

- ◆ Submit a completed grant application with original signatures and seven copies of the application package.
- ◆ Submit an application narrative of no more than 20 pages addressing each of the Selection Criteria on page 5 in the sequence shown. The narrative must incorporate the requirements listed in the Performance Measures section on page 6. If the narrative includes more than 20 pages, the applicant's submission will be deemed noncompliant.
- ◆ Ensure that all applicable forms in the application kit are signed and dated.
- ◆ Submit the application narrative on 8½- by 11-inch paper, double spaced on one side, in a standard 12-point font.
- ◆ Include written authorization from the chief executive officer(s) from partner organization(s) if the application is submitted on behalf of a consortium.

Review Process

BJA will establish and oversee the review process. Review teams will score applications and make an award recommendation to the Director of BJA. The award will be made by the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Justice Programs, in consultation with the Director of BJA, on the basis of peer review results and other considerations.

Selection Criteria

It is critical that the application explicitly describe the goals, objectives, and the level of work to be accomplished under this program. The applicant must address the criteria in the sequence shown as well as incorporate requirements listed in the Performance Measures section. Applications will be scored using the following criteria:

1. What is the objective of your proposal? (20 points)

Describe your mission clearly and succinctly. Include data supporting the problem/issue you have described along with information explaining the impact of the problem(s) in affected communities.

2. What are you proposing to do and how do you intend to do it? (25 points)

Provide an overview of your strategy that includes goals, objectives, and a timeframe. Make certain that your strategy is culturally relevant and that there is a clear and strong link between what you are proposing and how it will address the needs defined in Criteria 1. Once the strategy is fully developed, what tasks will occur and when? Include all elements needed to make your application work.

3. What resources do you have to support your strategy? (25 points)

Describe your organization, the experience of your organization and its people working with tribal governments, similar projects that you have conducted, and the partnerships you have established to implement your strategy. The commitment and support you describe will be verified prior to final award.

4. How will you know if your strategy works? (15 points)

Address the measurements you will put in place to determine your strategy's effectiveness. A clear connection should be maintained with the problems you have identified. Explain what will be measured, who will do it, and how the information will be used.

5. What are the costs and cost benefits of implementing the strategy? (15 points)

Provide a detailed budget and budget narrative that clearly provides information regarding how federal funds will be expended.

Performance Measures

Under the Government Performance and Results Act, OJP's performance for the Tribal Technology and Information Sharing Outreach Program is measured by the number of best practices and useful assessment protocols related to tribal integrated justice information systems that are

identified and the number of tribal communities that are provided services related to best practices, useful assessment protocols, and other tools to enhance their systems. Grantees are required to report on these measures in semiannual progress reports.

Applicants applying under this solicitation should select and discuss in their narrative at least two activities and indicators from the list on page 7. You must address the type of information you will collect; who will collect the information and the methods of collection; and how the information will be reported. If you are selected for an award, you will be expected to provide interim data detailing information and insight gathered in your semi-annual progress reports and include, as part of your final progress report, a comprehensive review of your project highlighting both challenges and accomplishments.

Evaluation

To further support research and evaluations in tribal communities, the applicant agrees to cooperate and provide information to NIJ evaluators that are designated to work with BJA's Inter-tribal Integrated Justice Pilot Project, with the Tribal Courts Assistance Program, and with the Indian Alcohol and Substance Abuse Demonstration Project. The goals of these evaluations are to gain practical, measurable, and descriptive information that can be provided to interested agencies and organizations about the processes and early outcomes of these initiatives.

Deadline and Submission

An application with original signatures and seven copies must be date stamped by the delivery service no later than **September 13, 2002.**

Applicants are advised not to send their application via the U.S. mail due to delays caused by the screening of U.S. mail addressed to the Justice Department. Applications date stamped after the

deadline will not be considered. BJA will not grant extensions of the deadline or accept faxed submissions. Applications should be mailed or delivered to:

Bureau of Justice Assistance
Attention: BJA Control Desk
5640 Nicholson Lane, Suite 300
Rockville, MD 20852
301-231-7537

The Tribal Technology and Information Sharing Outreach Program Activities and Indicators

Activities	Indicators
Identify members and establish a culturally appropriate advisory committee.	Number of individuals identified, members selected (tribal and nontribal), number of meetings held, topics discussed, trainings/events attended.
Identify and document tribal-based assessment protocols and integrated justice partnerships, roles, and responsibilities.	Number and type of assessment protocols (focusing on small, medium, and large jurisdictions) and integrated justice partnerships identified. Number of members receiving training in assessment protocols and new technologies.
Increase the efficiency of information sharing and management.	Types/pieces of information shared per agency per year before and after implementation/enhancement of the program. Average number of work hours/days spent per type/piece of information received before and after implementation/enhancement of the program. Amount of money saved due to system enhancement.
Increase coordination among justice system agencies.	Number of reports disseminated to tribal and nontribal justice system agencies, particularly in regard to crime, violence, and substance abuse.
Increase cooperative efforts between tribal, local, and federal agencies.	Number of partnerships and MOUs developed.

For Help With Your Proposal

The staff of the Bureau of Justice Assistance are available at 202-616-3279 to answer questions about this solicitation. Applicants will receive a postcard acknowledging BJA's receipt of their application 4 to 6 weeks following the submission deadline. For more information about BJA programs and training and technical assistance, contact the BJA Clearinghouse at 1-800-688-4252 or visit the BJA home page at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA.

U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Justice Programs

Bureau of Justice Assistance

Washington, DC 20531

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